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ALFRED, and with the pleasant story told by ASSER of how the boy ALFRED, stimulated by the promised reward of a Saxon book of poetry, applied himself to the task of learning to read.¹ Less favor will doubtless be won for the conjecture that BISHOP SWITHUN, the preceptor of the king, ÆTHELWULF, may have been the author of the poem.

The editorial work of this volume is marked with such scrupulous care that it is plainly the duty of the reviewer to make this acknowledgment prominent. Nor is it unfitting to indulge the proud sense of knowing that American scholarship has hereby given proof of progress in true scientific devotion to the study of English. The more exact the method of an editor, the more inevitable, of course, becomes the margin for minute criticism. It shall however not be the purpose of this notice to enter into such details, except to say that such difficulties as attend the interpretation of words like *scūr* and *wælsce*, and the importance of making clear a construction like the impersonal use of *weorðan*, suggest the interest and advantage a body of explanatory notes might add to the volume. A place would be thus obtained for many a discussion that cannot be fully cared for in the variants or in the glossary. Of the translation accompanying the text it can only be said that it is a careful rendering of the sense, with a semblance of poetic form. Regarding the artistic character of the many translations of Anglo-Saxon poetry, one is inclined to apply the words of DENHAM: "There are so few translations which deserve praise, that I scarce ever saw any which deserved pardon." But as conveying the prose sense—though unfortunately not in good prose—this translation has but the slightest faults. It is an easy matter to correct such a variation from the mould of the original thought as is occasioned by the concessive clause in line 65, and a single serious mistranslation, "Bucklers for breasts" (line 192), can also be pardoned. A difference of opinion is possible in construing lines 3 and 4. My preference is to regard *hyldo* as accusative, in opposition to *mundbyrd*, and to place

a comma after *pearfe*, to indicate an interjected epic formula which stands apart from the construction of the main sentence. These pages are also almost free from misprints. The glossary has *eft* (for *eft*); the instrumental *pé* (*s. v. ðæt*; l. 53) is without the quantity-mark; and at page lxi, line 15 from below, the numeral 49 is misleading in its reference. But searching for such things is in this case an altogether too unpromising task to be further continued.

JAMES W. BRIGHT.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SHAKESPEARIANA.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—In the late issue of your esteemed journal you say that *Shakespeariana* is edited by MR. APPLETON MORGAN—author of 'The Shakespearian Myth.' MR. MORGAN is President of the New York Shakespeare Society, a committee of which society edits this magazine. But, except *ex-officio*, MR. MORGAN is not a member of that committee, and has nothing specific to do with the editorial direction of the magazine. The short editorial note, however, on page 139 of the March issue, was from his pen.

Asking you to fraternally use this information in such a way as to correct any possible misapprehension which may arise from your paragraph, we are

Most respectfully yours,

The Editors of *Shakespeariana*.

BRIEF MENTION.

The First Course of Macmillan's 'French Composition,' edited by G. EUGÈNE-FAS-NACHT, shows progress in the treatment of this difficult subject. The pages devoted to French passages to be re-written in a different person or number, are fortunately few. They are followed by the second part, which consists of parallel passages, where the French models must first be carefully studied. These passages contain abundant references to the treatise on syntax given in the same volume, and foot-notes are thus done away with. The third part is made up of passages in English for translation into French and abounds

¹ PROF. WÜLKER (*Anglia* xi, 541) notices that both TURNER and PETRIE had already thought of JUDITH, instead of OSBURGA, as the "mother" that offered the reward.

also in syntactical helps. To make the book independent in itself the author has added a quite extended, though compact, chapter on parallel syntax, in which the English and French constructions are indicated on separate columns of the same page. An appendix on forms of letter-writing, and a vocabulary, complete the editor's work. As it stands it is the most available hand-book so far brought to our attention. For a second edition we would suggest the insertion of lists of the verbs requiring respectively *à* or *de* before the following infinitive, as well as of those which take no preposition; similar lists of adjectives requiring *à* or *de*; and a selection from the more common idioms. (Pp. xii, 201. Price 60 cents.)

Two publications in the line of French are at hand from Longmans, Green & Co. (London and New York). One, the '*Petit Théâtre des Enfants*,' consists of twelve French plays for children, edited by MRS. HUGH BELL. They are all short, bright and especially attractive to the age for which they are written. Most of them demand but two or three actors. The other, a book on '*French Commercial Correspondence*,' edited by ELPHEGE JANAUD, provides a complete manual for business purposes. The headings of the chapters (such, e. g., as Advertisements, Letters of Introduction, Offering and Ordering Goods, Consignments, Banking, Insurance, Models of Bills), give an idea of the contents. Models of all kinds of mercantile correspondence are given in French, and similar letters in English are set for translation. The notes to the latter are grouped together at the end of the volume under the number of each letter. French-English and English-French glossaries are appended. The same firm announces a like work for German. (Pp. xvi, 222. Price, 2s., 6d.)

The house of Hachette (Boston: Carl Schoenhof) offers four French texts for class use. Two of them, of only a few pages each, in cloth, are edited by the REV. A. C. CLAPIN, M. A. They are DUMAS' '*Un Drame de la Mer*' and LAMARTINE'S '*La Bataille de Trafalgar*.' While both relate to nautical affairs, the former is especially intended for Naval Schools and will thus find a ready public. Their small size however (35 pp. and 20 pp. of text) will in-

terfere with their general adoption, and it would have been advisable to have combined them into one volume, whereby, moreover, the labor of compiling two vocabularies would have been avoided. (Price, 40 cents each.)—The same objection does not apply to the third text, MONTESQUIEU'S '*De la Grandeur des Romains*' (pp. viii, 153 of text and 63 of notes and vocabulary, with two maps), edited by PAUL E. E. BARBIER. In his work, which is performed with conscientiousness, the editor introduces a short chapter of "Notes" on the derivation of French from Latin. The authorities cited are KITCHIN and BRACHET. We doubt whether the latter would care to be responsible for the rule given by the editor: "The Latin tonic vowel remains in the French language," by which is clearly meant, as is seen from the examples, the Latin form of the vowel; nor is BRACHET guilty of deriving *sœur* from *SOROREM*. The question of etymology, however, does not much affect the general merit of the volume, and it will be welcomed as affording a valuable substitute for the various selections of historical readings heretofore available. (Price: 70 cents).—The remaining publication of this firm to be here noted is in the line of general reading. From HECTOR MALOT'S '*Sans Famille*,' FRANCIS TARVER, M. A. has edited selections, made by MALOT himself, under the title '*Capi et sa Troupe*' (pp. vi, 210). The defect in the editor's work is the excessive help which he has given the student in the notes and vocabulary. The former fill forty pages of small type and the latter contains the finite forms of the verbs as they appear in the text. Thus on the one hand the instructor's share is seriously reduced, and on the other the student is not required, as he should be, to rely on the grammar for assistance. We notice also the omission from the vocabulary of many nouns which are explained in the notes, a method that is open to serious objections. (Price, 70 cents).

'Longmans' Handbook of English Literature: Part I, From the earliest times to CHAUCER' (Longmans, Green & Co.) is the first instalment of a work by R. MCWILLIAM (Inspector to the School Board for London), in which the story of English Literature is to be told in a very

simple manner. This first volume, comprising 113 pages, is a primer of the literature from CÆDMON to CHAUCER, which will be found useful for giving beginners their first general impression of what was written in these early times. Only the most important monuments and authors are dealt with, but always in an interesting way. Specimens of the text are either translated or glossed so as to make them manageable for the modest purpose of the book. There is of course enough left to be supplied by the teacher, nor does this primer maintain that degree of accuracy which has been shown to be possible even in such elementary sketches; yet the book is worthy of commendation as an endeavor to interest the young in the remote beginnings of our literary history.

One of the best of SIR WALTER SCOTT'S shorter poems is the 'Lay of the Last Minstrel,' an edition of which, edited by J. E. WETHERELL, will be published by D. C. Heath & Co., Boston. This edition fully annotated and accompanied by a map expressly prepared to illustrate the poem is about to appear. The same firm have added, by purchase, to their extensive modern language publications, those issued by MR. CHARLES KILBORN, Boston; namely, 'The Story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves'; 'Der Zwerg Nase'; 'Märchen' von WILHELM HAUFF; CHAMISSO'S 'Peter Schlemihl'; HEINE'S 'Die Harzreise'; 'Choix d'Extraits' de DAUDET; SOUVESTRE'S 'Confessions d'un Ouvrier.'

During the present month (March) a new eclectic French monthly, *La Revue Française*, has been started in New York. The province of the *Revue* will be to furnish readers and students of French with the select works of the best French authors, annotated where necessary, and with essays on the study of the French language and literature by competent teachers and writers. The selections will mostly be drawn from contemporary French periodical literature, though every period in the life of literary France will be represented. The departments will embrace a *Chronique parisienne*, and a *Revue bibliographique*. The subscription is \$4.00 a year; single copies, 35 cents. Published at 39 West Fourteenth Street, New York City.

MR. WILLIAM R. JENKINS (N. Y.), will publish immediately a popular edition of HUGO'S 'Notre-Dame de Paris' in two volumes, from the same plates and with the illustrations used in the *édition de luxe* which he issued in the autumn. This will appear in uniform shape with 'Les Misérables' and 'Quatre-Vingt-Treize,' which he has already published. The same publisher announces 'VAILLANTE,' a French novel which has not only been crowned by the French Academy, but has received the Montyon prize (for virtue), as a forthcoming number of the French series of *Romans Choisis*.

Five numbers have reached us of a new publication, *Germania*, "a fortnightly journal for the study of the German language and literature." A. W. Spanhoofd, Editor and Publisher, P. O. Box 90, Manchester, N. H. The aim of this journal is two-fold: 1. To teach the language, special attention being given to all the various grades of students. The beginner's corner contains short, easy stories with English interlinear translation, numerous grammatical and textual notes, conversations and exercises. 2. It will try to acquaint readers with the best German literature. To this end a novel is published continuously, with translations of difficult words and expressions at the foot of the page. A special column is devoted to *Bücher und Lectüre*, and in the *Briefkasten* questions concerning literature, grammar, pronunciation, etc., are answered. (Price per year \$3.00; single number, 15 cents).

The last number (vol. ii, no. 1) of the *American Journal of Psychology* contains an interesting article by DR. MARY PUTNAM-JACOBI on "The Place for the Study of Language in a Curriculum of Education." The point of view from which the subject is discussed is that of cerebral physiology.—*The Journal of American Folk-Lore*, vol. i, No. 3 (October-December, 1888) contains (pp. 243-244) a notice of 'The Earliest English Version of the Fables of Bidpai,' edited by JOSEPH JACOBS, from the pen of PROFESSOR THOMAS F. CRANE, of Cornell University.—In vol. ii, no. 4 of the same journal are to be found notices by PROFESSOR T. F. CRANE (Cornell University) of J. S. TUNISON'S 'Master Virgil,

The author of the *Æneid*, as he seemed in the Middle Ages' and of GEORGE WEBBE DASENT'S 'Popular Tales from the Norse.'—PROF. T. W. HUNT (Princeton) lectured recently at Columbia College (N. Y.) on "The Claims of Literary Studies." The same energetic worker has an article in the March number of the *New Englander and Yale Review* entitled: "Euphuism in Literature and Style."—PROF. FRANCIS B. GUMMERE (Haverford College) read before a convention of The Friends Teachers' Association of Philadelphia, held on December 1st, 1888, a paper on "Preparatory English," which is published in the *Haverford Student* (pp. 213-219) for January 1889.—*Science* for December 14, 1888, publishes an address delivered by PROFESSOR A. MELVILLE BELL before the Nineteenth Century Club, of New York, on "The Claims of the English Language to Universality." The ideas here advocated are the same in substance as were presented by this celebrated phonetician in his ingenious and clever monograph: 'World English, The Universal Language,' noticed in vol. iii, pp. 206-207 of MOD. LANG. NOTES.—The *Open Court* for December 1888, contains an interesting and timely article by PROF. THOMAS on "War and Evolution: an Ethical Discussion."—In a recent course of lectures on German literature and art, delivered at Harvard University, we notice among the names of the lecturers those of PROF. KUNO FRANCKE (Harvard University) and ALFRED L. RIPLEY (formerly of Yale University).—The *Academy* (Syracuse) for February, 1889, contains an article by PROF. MORTON W. EASTON (University of Pennsylvania), entitled: "Notes on Preparatory French."—Volume ix (nos. 1, 2, 3, 4) of The *American Journal of Philology*, contains an extensive treatment of "The Pennsylvania German Dialect" by DR. M. D. LEARNED of the Johns Hopkins University.

It seems as if the demand for better editions of German classics which was expressed in one of the early numbers of the NOTES were now gradually being fulfilled. Following close upon PROFESSOR THOMAS'S excellent edition of GOETHE'S 'Tasso' comes another classic text, edited in a manner which, in some respects, is even more commendable. A careful selection of LESSING'S prose, well

annotated for class-room purposes, has long been felt to be an urgent need. This has been met by the little volume, 'Lessing: Ausgewählte Prosa und Briefe,' edited with Notes, by HORATIO STEVENS WHITE (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons). LESSING'S literary greatness appears much more from his prose writings than from his poetic attempts, but unfortunately the great mass of our students have hitherto been made acquainted only with his fables or with extracts from the 'Laokoon.' The present selection, while illustrating LESSING'S manysided literary activity, has evidently been made also from an historic point of view. In the hands of a teacher well versed in LESSING it may serve to demonstrate to the student the different phases in the unfolding of LESSING'S style, since the extracts chosen always represent the great writer at his best with regard to the respective periods of his development. Yet the choice of the 'Gedanken über die Herrnhuter,' despite HETTNER'S praise of this essay, does not seem to us fortunate. On the other hand, 'Die Erziehung des Menschengeschlechtes,' the finest illustration of LESSING'S style and thought in the later period of his life, should not have been omitted.—The grammatical and biographical notes appended to the text are the most concise and suggestive we have ever met in an edition of a German classic. PROFESSOR WHITE justly discards the fine feathers that other commentators—for the mere sake of a learned appearance, and to the distaste alike of critic and student—sometimes rejoice so much in borrowing from KLUGE'S 'Etymologischem Wörterbuch.' He has, on the contrary, made his notes a most valuable and useful source of information for the student, and has thus happily followed the spirit of LESSING, who hated nothing more than "eine tote erlogene Gelehrsamkeit."

Vol. i, No. 1 (July, 1888) of the *University Studies* published by the University of Nebraska, contains a dissertation "On the History of the Auxiliary Verbs in the Romance Languages," by DR. J. A. FONTAINE, which from causes quite apart from its merits failed to receive earlier notice in these columns. Under the above title PROFESSOR FONTAINE publishes a critical study of sixty-six pages, originally

offered by him as a thesis for the degree of doctor of philosophy at the Johns Hopkins University. The subject is treated under three heads, covering the use of the auxiliaries with transitive verbs, with intransitives, and with reflexives. In Chapter I, the author shows by abundant citations from the earliest monuments, that in Spanish and Portuguese the representatives of HABERE (*haber*, *haver*) were used more frequently as principal verbs than were *tener*, *ter*; and illustrates the gradual restriction of Sp. *haber* to use chiefly as an auxiliary, while *ter* in Portuguese almost entirely supplants *haver*, both as principal and auxiliary verb.—The question of the use of the auxiliaries with intransitive verbs (Chap. II) is more difficult, especially as bearing on the somewhat fluctuating interchange, in Italian, French and Provençal, of the representatives of ESSE and HABERE. The theories advanced in this part are striking (p. 21 ff.):

"All verbs in their nature are active verbs; . . . in their use they are divided into two classes, viz.: transitives, affecting an external object (*objective-transitives*) and intransitives, or semi-transitives affecting the subject (*subjective-transitives*). The verbs of the first class, expressing an activity directed towards an external object, are conjugated with *avoir*; the verbs of the second class, expressing an action affecting the subject itself, partake of the nature of passive verbs, and thus take *être*. But later on the second class of verbs was developed into two classes: subjective transitives fully expressed: *Je me repens*; and subjective transitives elliptically expressed: *Je meurs* for *Je me meurs*. To the second of the above classes belong the so-called neuter verbs; they are nothing but elliptical reflexive verbs, or subjective transitives elliptically expressed."

From this starting point, the author offers a suggestive and comprehensive, though not undebatable, explanation of the varying use of the auxiliaries in the Romance languages. Apropos of *mourir* (by the way), stress is laid upon the fact that it could be used not only as a reflexive verb, but also as an active verb (pp. 25, 43). It should however be noted that this use of *mourir* is limited to the compound tenses, a state of affairs which all of DR. FONTAINE'S examples illustrate, and which throws interesting light on the development of an active force in compounds of the past participles.—In its *Studies* the University of Nebraska is to be congratulated on an enterprise which so

successfully combines the intellectual and material forces at its disposal, in promoting the best interests of pure scholarship.

CORRECTION.

In line 116 of the 'Apprise de Nurture' (MOD. LANG. NOTES, vol. iv, col. 105). for *sang* read *sanz*. Also, in the same volume, col. 23, lines 16, 17 instead of *die trefflichen Studien ZARNCKES über das Lebermeer*, read *die trefflichen Studien ZARNCKES über den Presbyter Johannes und die von C. HOFMANN über das Lebermeer*—etc.

PERSONAL.

PROF. WÜLKER (Leipsic) writes to say that he is now preparing the remaining portion of the second volume of the *Bibliothek der Angelsächsischen Poesie* which will contain the so-called CÆDMON poems, 'Christ und Satan,' 'Judith,' 'Be Domes Dæge' (previously edited by LUMBY), 'Hymnen und Gebete' and the 'Menologium.' He is also editing a new edition of the third volume of Koch's 'Englische Grammatik.' For this purpose he will make use of a copy of the volume formerly belonging to the author himself, which is richly supplied with annotations and improvements in the author's own hand. The new edition will in consequence show many changes, as well as an increase in size.

At a recent session of The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Surgeon FRANKLIN B. STEPHENSON, U. S. N., *Membre titulaire de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris*, was chosen a member in the section of Philology.

FREDERIC SPENCER, B. A., Ph. D., was appointed in January to the Chair of Modern Languages in the University College of North Wales. MR. SPENCER took his B. A. degree at the University of Cambridge (England) in 1886, gaining second-class honors in the Mediæval and Modern Languages tripos; his Doctor's degree was very recently received at the University of Leipsic on the presentation of a dissertation entitled, "A Study in Anglo-Norman Literature of the Thirteenth Century." He has held the position, for some months past, of Head Master of the Modern Language department at the Leys School, Cambridge (England).